

Notice of 30-Day Comment Period For the Group Ten Metals

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Details for Notice of 30-Day Comment Period For the Group Ten Metals

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Notice of 30-Day Comment Period For the Group Ten Metals, Stillwater West Phase Two Plan of Operations for Mineral Exploration Beartooth and Yellowstone Ranger Districts, Custer Gallatin National Forest USDA FOREST SERVICE Sweet Grass and Stillwater Counties, Montana **Opportunity to Comment** The USDA Forest Service is providing an opportunity for public review and comment on the Environmental Assessment for the Group Ten Metals, Stillwater West Phase Two Plan of Operations for Mineral Exploration. The Responsible Official for the project is Ken Coffin, Beartooth District Ranger. The Group Ten Metals Plan of Operations proposes exploratory drilling at up to thirty-five drill sites over the course of seven operational seasons (2020-2026) on National Forest System lands administered by the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The proposed project area occurs in the Chrome Mountain and Iron Mountain vicinities of the East Boulder Plateau, located approximately 10 miles west of Nye, Montana. Six of the proposed drill sites occur on the Beartooth Ranger District with the remaining twenty-nine located on the Yellowstone Ranger District. Legal location descriptions of the proposed drill site locations are: Sections 33 and 34, T4S, R13E; Sections 2, 3, 11, 12, 13 and 14, T5S, R13E; and Sections 7 and 18, T5S, R14E; occurring within Sweet Grass and Stillwater Counties, Montana. The Plan of Operations as amended also proposes use of three laydown areas, nine water drafting sites and eleven helicopter landing zones located on National Forest System lands. Two additional helicopter landing zones located on privately-owned lands outside of the

Forest boundary and would serve as a primary and secondary base of helicopter operations. Ground-based vehicle support would access the project area via Picket Pin Road (Forest Service Road 2140). Up to three track-mounted or portable drill rigs may be utilized. The drills would operate 24 hours per day, 7 days a week during periods of active drilling. Annual operating seasons are defined as July 15 to October 1. All project activities, to include final reclamation, would be completed by no later than October 1, 2025. Reclamation monitoring would occur for up to an additional 3 years. The direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed action are analyzed and disclosed in the Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment and supporting information is available for review on-line at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55033> and are also available for review at the Beartooth Ranger District office in Red Lodge, Montana. **How to Comment and Timeframe** The proposed project is subject to the Project-Level Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process outlined by Forest Service Regulation 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.25, comments on the Environmental Assessment will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this legal notice in the *Billings Gazette*. If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period (36 CFR 218.6(d)). Written comments must be submitted via mail, fax, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: District Ranger Ken Coffin, Beartooth Ranger District 6811 Highway 212, Red Lodge, MT 59068; fax: 406-446-3918. Comments can also be submitted electronically at the following project website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55033>. Acceptable formats for electronically submitted comments include: text or html email, Adobe portable document format (.pdf), and formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications (e.g., .doc, .docx). For additional information on this proposed Plan of Operations or how to comment, please contact Dan Seifert at the Beartooth Ranger District at 406-446-2103. It is the responsibility of the persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those individuals or entities as defined by 36 CFR 218.2, who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed mineral exploration project will be eligible to file an objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218.25(a). A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR 218.25(a)(4). For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting comments must

either sign the comment or verify identity upon request. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements at 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3). Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act. Published 8/29/2019.

YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN

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Aug 26, 2019
